

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45 are pending. Claims 1-19 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 20-43 are rejected. Claims 44 and 45 are indicated as allowable. Claims 20-43 have been cancelled by the enclosed amendment.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 20-40 as unpatentable over Shepard et al. (U.S. 6,068,933). In view of Applicant's amendment, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 20-24, 26-30 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of Applicant's amendment, this rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that in the present Office Action, the Patent Office indicated that claims 44 and 45 are allowable. In response to the allowance of claims 44 and 45, Applicant has cancelled the non-allowable claims from the present application.

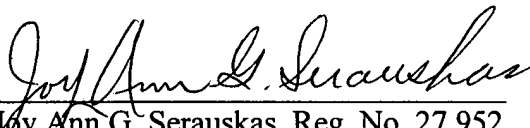
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicant urges the Patent Office to telephone Applicant's representative so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicant requests the Patent Office to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,


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